WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A test article comprising

a solid phase;

dry thromboplastin immobilized on or within the solid phase, wherein the thromboplastin is substantially free from substances which cause aberrant functioning intermediate transition states as the thromboplastin is rehydrated with liquid sample; and

coagulation neutral agents which facilitate rehydration of the thromboplastin upon contact of the solid phase with a liquid sample.

2. A test article as in claim 1, wherein the dry thromboplastin is substantially free from aberrant functioning thromboplastin transition states found in thromboplastin purified from brain extract.

3. A test article as in claim 1, wherein the dry thromboplastin is relipidated recombinant tissue factor.

4. A test article as in claim 1, wherein the coagulation neutral agents are selected from the group consisting of proteins, water soluble polymers, and surfactants.

5. A test strip comprising:

a permeable membrane having an application face and an indicator face in lateral opposition, said membrane being substantially free from an interference with a coagulation pathway, and coagulation neutral agents intended to facilitate liquid sample uptake and distribution into the test article;

dry thromboplastin impregnated within the membrane, wherein the thromboplastin is substantially free from substances which cause aberrant intermediate transition states as the thromboplastin is rehydrated with liquid sample;

a substrate impregnated within the membrane, which substrate produces a detectable signal upon activation by a component of the coagulation pathway;

whereby coagulation factor VII or VII(a) containing samples may be applied to the application face of the membrane, and a detectable signal produced on the indicator faced as a result of production of the coagulation pathway component.

6. The test strip as in claim 5, wherein the dry thromboplastin is substantially free from aberrant functioning thromboplastin transition states found in thromboplastin purified from brain extract.

7. The test strip as in claim 5, wherein the dry thromboplastin is relipidated recombinant tissue factor.

8. The test strip as in claim 5, wherein the coagulation neutral agents are selected from the group consisting of proteins, water soluble polymers, and surfactants.

9. An improved prothrombin time assay of the type wherein a blood or plasma sample is applied to a solid phase to contact dry thromboplastin to initiate a detectable reaction, wherein the improvement comprises contacting a dry thromboplastin which is substantially free from substances which cause aberrant transition states as the thromboplastin is rehydrated with plasma sample.

10. An improved prothrombin time assay as in claim 9, wherein the dry thromboplastin is substantially free from aberrant functioning thromboplastin transition states found in thromboplastin purified from brain extract.

11. An improved prothrombin time assay as in claim 9, wherein the dry thromboplastin is relipidated recombinant tissue factor.

12. The method as in claim 9, wherein the coagulation neutral agents are selected from the group consisting of proteins, water soluble polymers, and surfactants.